

Animal Alternatives

By Wendy R. Carpenter

With current recognition of the rights of animals and our responsibility for their welfare, it has become imperative that those working with animals in teaching and research find alternatives that reduce the necessity of using animals. This was the topic of a seminar held Nov. 11-13 entitled "Alternatives to Live Teachers and Guinea Pigs" held at AVC by the APICS Council for Animal Care. Dr. J. Amend opened the seminar at a public lecture Friday evening. In the past, many experiments were done with animals which would not be considered acceptable today. In some of those cases there were no alternatives but today there are choices and better alternatives.

Alternatives fall into two categories: limitation and elimination. The use of animals for teaching purposes can be reduced by the development of media and demonstrations which will replace the presence of live animals. However, this still requires the necessity of using a few animals for their development. The use of animals can also be reduced in

research. Graduate students at several schools are now receiving special training in the care of animals and ways to limit their use. The number of these programs is gradually expanding with one of the best being at the University of Saskatchewan. Tissue culture is also reducing the number of animals needed in experimentation. There are training courses available in this technique as well. Artificial biology such as building biochemical membranes is expanding. One of the most popular methods of decreasing animal use in the lab is the computer simulation. There are a variety of these available which can be fixed or can be manipulated by the operator. The quality of these simulations can vary depending on how much is known about the system which is being simulated and how much you can feed the computer. Obviously, a simulation is only valuable if it correctly imitates the natural system. Several good programs are already available in this respect for physiology such as those that describe the electrophysiology of the heart

and contraction of muscle.

The seminar was attended by researchers and technicians from all four Atlantic provinces. They were introduced to several of these alternatives, mostly involving computer simulations, and

had an opportunity to try them out for themselves. There is a great deal of interest in using these new teaching methods and their use will be increasing in both teaching and research institutions in the future. ■

Kelley Quotes

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(Week-end before policy was due.)

Gail R: "Wanna buy a used accountant?"

Ross W: "Come on Boys."

Lisa D: "There's no need for that language!"

Bobby C: "Yeah! I got the printer to work."

Denise: "&#!@#!"

Andrew M: "Want some candy, little girl?"

Karren E: "Gail, I'm going to Kill you!"

Don C: "Ddddddddouble print."

Patricia: "I think I'll go watch Maureen's walkman."

Jamie, (H.R. Blockhead), M: "Yeah, just a minute." and, "What about those monthly payables?"

Heather J. and Mike B: "We're still engaged through all this."

Gary F: "Does anybody have \$10,054 to balance our balance sheet?"

Ian B: "How are you getting along?"

Kent S: "Are we home yet boys?"

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Dean R: "Come on Kent you'll be alright in the morning."

Pat T: "Jeez, I'm tired."

Derrick C: "Are ya getting on?" and, "Are you implying that I can't drive?"

Neil R: "O.K., I'm going to go do some work."

Chris D: "That's not mine! I didn't do it!"

Trent H: "Derrick, leave Lisa alone." and, "Yes, I think I can see it, we do have a profit somewhere."

Paul M: "My balance sheet is out by \$2.39."

John P: "One of these days, pow right to the moon." and, "Learn to have fun, grow up, act your age and wise up."

General Average: "Are we done yet?"

"What a stupid course!"

"I wanna go to bed...Alone."

"Where's Ab?"

"How late can we order a pizza?"

If you have been omitted, please forgive me this was a 5:26 am. job. Put your own in next week's Gem.

New Sign

The electric sign is up in the Pit and fully functional!! this sign is for your use—any student, club, or organization wanting to publicize an event or happening can do so.

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Sincerely,
Paul Griffith
VP Communications

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